

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 17 remain active in this case, Claim 1 having been amended, Claim 17 having been added and Claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, and 12 canceled by the present amendment, and Claims 13-16 having been withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6, 8, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cottell (U.S. Patent No. 3,715,104); Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Goudy (U.S. Patent No. 4,259,021); Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cottell and Goudy; and Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goudy in view of Muller (U.S. Patent No. 2,615,692).

In light of the outstanding grounds for rejection, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention, thereby to more clearly patentably define over the cited prior art. To that end, amended Claim 1 defines the subject liquid mixing apparatus having the noted vessel as provided, in the bottom portion of the vessel, with one or more perforations, and the reflector is detachably disposed in the bottom portion of the vessel. The perforation(s) extend through a center area of the reflector and penetrate the bottom portion of the vessel and through which the mixture components are fed to a space between the vibrator and the reflector through a mixture component supply line connected to the perforation. By virtue of this clarification provided in amended Claim 1, it is believed that amended Claim 1 is clearly not anticipated by either of Cottell and Goudy, as neither Cottell nor Goudy disclose or suggest a detachable reflector disposed in the bottom portion of the vessel and also provided with one or more perforations which extend through a center area of the reflector and

penetrate the bottom portion of the vessel, and through which the mixture components are fed to a space between the vibrator and the reflector through a mixture component supply line connected to the perforation, as recited in amended Claim 1.


Applicants acknowledge that the outstanding Office Action cites Goudy, for example, as disclosing a reflector (such as 64, 40 or 41) disposed in the vessel. However, the Goudy reflector is not detachably disposed in the bottom portion of the vessel, as stated in amended Claim 1, or more particularly, in the recessed portion, as stated in new Claim 17. Further, the Goudy reflector is not seen as having any perforation or the like which extends through a center area of the reflector and penetrate the bottom portion of the vessel. Accordingly, the outstanding ground for rejection of independent Claim 1 is believed to have been overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, new dependent Claim 17 recites that the vessel is formed, at the bottom portion thereof, with a recessed portion and the reflector is detachably disposed in the recessed portion. Such structure is not disclosed in any one of the cited references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/07)